

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, TW, CH

SUBJECT: NEW YORK TIMES STORY ON RELEASED "WAR CRIMINALS"

FOLLOWING STORY FROM APRIL 14 NEW YORK TIMES IS REPEATED
FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

QUOTE: TEN CHINESE NATIONALIST "WAR CRIMINALS" RELEASED
BY CHINA UNDER A SPECIAL AMNESTY LAST MONTH LEFT PEKING
TODAY ON THEIR WAY TO TAIWAN, ACCORDING TO HSINUUA, THE
CHINESE PRESS AGENCY.

IT IS NOT KNOWN WHETHER THE CHINESE NATIONALIST
AUTHORITIES IN TAIPEI WILL PERMIT THE 10 MEN, MANY OF
WHOM HAVE CLOSE RELATIVES ON TAIWAN, TO ENTER. IF THEY ARE
ALLOWED IN, IT WILL BE THE FIRST TIME IN 25 YEARS THAT
CHINESE CAN TRAVEL FROM PEKING TO TAIPEI WITH THE
OFFICIAL PERMISSION OF BOTH THE COMMUNIST AND NATIONALIST
GOVERNMENTS.

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ACCORDING TO HSINHUA, THE 10 MEN HAVE BEEN GIVEN ADEQUATE FUNDS FOR TRAVEL AND "ROUND-TRIP TRAVELING PERMITS" SO THEY CAN RETURN TO MAINLAND CHINA IF THEY WISH TO.

THE 10 ARE BEING LED BY WANG PING-YUEH, A FORMER NATIONALIST LIEUTENANT GENERAL. MR. WANG'S WIFE AND CHILDREN ARE ALL ON TAIWAN, TOGETHER WITH HIS MOTHER.

ANOTHER RELEASED MAN, CHEN SHIH-CHANG, ALSO A FORMER LIEUTENANT GENERAL, HAS HAD NO NEWS OF HIS FAMILY SINCE 1950 WHEN HIS WIFE SENT HIM A PHOTOGRAPH OF THEIR NEW BABY.

A DISPATCH IN A LOCAL PRO-PEKING NEWSPAPER TONIGHT REPORTED THE ARRIVAL OF THE 10 MEN IN CANTON. PRESUMABLY, THEY WILL ENTER HONG KONG TOMORROW AND ATTEMPT TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO TRAVEL TO TAIPEI.

BEFORE LEAVING PEKING, THE RELEASED PRISONERS WERE REPORTED TO HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR GRATITUDE TO CHAIRMAN MAO TSE-TUNG AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY FOR THEIR MAGNANIMITY.

YESTERDAY, THE CHINESE NATIONALIST PARTY'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE SAID IN AN OPEN LETTER TO CHINESE IN MAINLAND CHINA THAT DESPITE THE DEATH LAST WEEK OF CHIANG KAI-SHEK, THE NATIONALISTS WERE DETERMINED TO CONTINUE THEIR FIGHT TO REGAIN CONTROL OF THE CHINESE MAINLAND, LOST TO THE COMMUNIST IN 1949. UNQUOTE

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